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HAWAII LIBRARY ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

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YOUR SECRETARY REPORTS

Robert Gahran

The Annual Spring Meeting of the Hawaii Library Association was held at the Library of Hawaii on April 2nd with the president, Mrs. Mabel Jackson presiding. A radiogram was received from ALA and read by the secretary.

The minutes of the Fall meeting were read and approved also the treasurer's report. Miss Hoskin reported for the CARE committee that food was of more use than clothing.

Miss Titcomb reported on the progress of the Union List of Serials. A motion was made and seconded that $150 be appropriated to subsidize clerical workers for the Union List. The motion was amended to leave it to the discretion of the executive committee to extend this sum upon the request of the Union List Committee.

Mr. Gahran reported on the plans for the Recruiting Reception and cordially invited all HLA members to attend the reception to be held in the auditorium of the Library of Hawaii on Friday April 29th at 3:30 P.M.

Several reports were made by librarians on the progress of new buildings being erected in the territory.

Miss Crawford and Mrs. Geiser spoke of the imminent increase in book postage and a motion was made and seconded that the executive committee study and act promptly thru Delegate Farrington in protest of the increase.

The nominating committee presented the following slate as officers for the year 1949-50:

1st Vice-President.....Mrs. Ann Pfaender
Secretary.....Mr. Robert Gahran
Treasurer.....Miss Genevieve Correa
Member at large, for a
two year term.....Miss Lillian Ching

According to constitutional provisions the following will serve as officers for the year 1949-50:

President.....Mrs. Clarissa Halsted
Vice-Presidents.....Mrs. Isabel Welsh, Hilo, Hawaii
Mrs. Juliet Davis, Maui County Library
Mrs. Thelma Hadley, Kauai Public Library
Hold over member
at large.....Mrs. Jean Brundage Stevens

It was moved and seconded that a unanimous ballot be cast for the slate. Passed.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
GENERAL LIBRARY

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Mrs. J. L. Robertson spoke interestingly on the Literature of Australia after which the meeting was adjourned. Sectional meetings were then called into session.

At the dinner meeting held at the COMMERCIAL CLUB, Mrs. Katherine Mellen spoke of her new book and her writing plans for the future.

The Hawaii Library Association held its first Recruiting for Librarianship Reception on April 29th in the auditorium of the Library of Hawaii. Even though after announcements had been sent out, the Committee discovered that the reception was being held on the same day as the schools were celebrating Lei Day, they felt rewarded when about thirty-five students from the university and high school classes appeared.

The program started with registration in the new HLA Guest book which was provided by Mrs. Jean Dabagh. A short film entitled THE LIBRARIAN was shown followed by a panel discussion of the various types of libraries. The panel with Mr. Gahran as moderator consisted of Mrs. Ethel Hill of the Medical Library; Mrs. Jean Stevens of Hawaiian Pineapple Library; Mrs. Ruth Fung of the Girls and Boys Room of the Library of Hawaii; Mrs. Gale Hamilton and Mrs. Helen Bevens of the University Library; and Mrs. Ethel Bowen of Kamehameha School Library. Interest was evident by the number of questions raised from the students especially in regard to salaries, cost for school course etc.

Cookies and pineapple-mint punch was served by the committee. The members of the committee, Mr. Gahran, Mrs. Dabagh, and Miss Shields feel that the reception was a step toward creating interest in careers in librarianship and feel that the reception should definitely be an annual function of the Hawaii Library Association.

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In accordance with the motion made and passed at the Executive Board meeting, April 22nd. the following letter was written in regard to the proposed increase in book rate postage:

28 April 1949

Honorable Joseph Rider Farrington
82 Kalorama Circle
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Hawaii Library Association, I wish to express our opposition to H.R. 2945 in the House of Representatives and S.1103 in the Senate. These bills propose to increase the postage rate for books to nine cents for the first pound and six cents for the second and additional pounds.

The book trade, schools and libraries are still staggering under the effects of the January 1st book post increase and are now threatened with another, the fourth since 1941. If the new rate is allowed to pass, it would increase the book rate by 500% on the first pound and 300% on the additional pounds over the rate in effect in 1941.

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This rate especially effects the people of the Territory of Hawaii who are solely dependent on postal services for books, periodicals, and newspapers. Island distribution medias cannot stand the increase and the result will be to deprive the people of the territory of the opportunity to receive those recreational and educational aids, as well as to deprive the post office of its estimated increase in revenue.

The Hawaii Library Association asks that you as Delegate to the United States Congress take immediate action to oppose this proposed increase.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Gahran, Secretary
Hawaii Library Association

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The following letters have been received in reply:

Joseph R. Farrington
Delegate from Hawaii

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, D.C.

May 9, 1949

...

Dear Mr. Gahran:

I will be glad to bring to the attention of the House Committe on Post Office and Civil Service your letter of April 28 expressing your concern over the proposed increase in the rate of postage on books.

I was pleased to learn of your interest in this legislation.

Sincerely yours,

J.R. Farrington
Delegate from Hawaii

May 17, 1949

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Dear Mr. Gahran:

The enclosed letter from the Chairman of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service is sent to you for your information.

Sincerely yours,

J.R. Farrington
Delegate from Hawaii

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U. S.
Committee on
Post Office and Civil Service
Washington, D. C.

May 12, 1949

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Dear Mr. Farrington:

This will acknowledge your letter of May 9, forwarding a communication sent to you by the Secretary of the Hawaii Library Association, concerning the proposed increase in postal rates.

We are currently holding hearings on H.R.2945, and I will be pleased to bring this letter to the attention on the Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Tom Murray
Chairman

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NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORING ISLES

KAUAI-- Mrs. Mary Pelton

Kauai's previous correspondent to the Journal, Lucille Moore, has left her position as Reference and extension librarian for her home in Indiana, where she will spend the summer. In the fall she plans to be in a school library in the Los Angeles area. Before departing, she revealed that she and Frank Dersham of Makaweli, Kauai will be married at Christmas. Mr. Dersham is returning later in the summer to live in California and attend school there.

The library staff gave a party honoring Miss Moore, with a boat trip up the Wailua River followed by a picnic barbecue supper at the home of Mrs. Hadley.

Our librarian, Mrs. Thelma Hadley, has been working frantically the past month or so to place orders for books, supplies, and equipment for our new branches at Hanapepe and Waimea, before the deficiency budget deadline June 30. The attractive building at Hanapepe is now completed and awaits the arrival of equipment--by fall, we hope--for an official opening. Construction at Waimea will start this summer.

Mrs. Hadley spent a well-earned vacation in Honolulu during June. She was on hand for her daughter Barbara's graduation from Roosevelt.

Toni Hoyler, Children's librarian, expects her mother July 18 for an extended stay. Following Mrs. Hoyler's arrival in Honolulu, they will spend a week there sight-seeing, then visit Maui and Hawaii before returning to Kauai.

Two new staff members will join the Kauai library in July. Ruth Doenig, who will replace Lucille Moore, comes from the South Bend, Indiana library. She has worked also at Enoch Pratt in Baltimore, and

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is a graduate of the University of Maryland and the Library school of the University of North Carolina. Jeanette Roberts is to be the new librarian for Hanapepe branch and will work in the main library until Hanapepe is ready to function. Miss Roberts graduated from the University of Denver and has been working the past year in the Glendale, California Public library.

The annual meeting of the Kauai Historical Society was held at the library the evening of May 23. Miss Rebecca Banks, a Kapaa school teacher, gave an entertaining account of the petroglyphs which she and another teacher, Miss Pearl Jackson, discovered near the mouth of the Wailua River.

An exhibit of oil paintings by Miss Minnie Fujita, well-known Kauai artist, is now being shown in the library. It has created much interest and brought many visitors.

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MAUI-- Mrs. Eleanor White

Mrs. J.L. Davis, Librarian, has been on leave since April first and is present a patient at Kula Sanitarium.

Mrs. Eleanor White, formerly Children's Librarian, is Acting Librarian (plus being her own assistant, as we've had a vacancy for months in that position.)

Mrs. Ellen Lindley, who was Children's Librarian here two years ago, has returned to that position, temporarily abandoning house and garden to help us out in an emergency.

Miss Lucille Berg, formerly of the Kauai Public Library and now a school librarian on Maui, will be with us for the summer--we're practically counting the hours until the close of school and her arrival!

Apart from these personals, we are still doing business in the same old way at the same old stand, with no exciting news of new buildings, etc., to report. Maybe we can stir up something in the way of excitement in time for the next H.L.A. Journal--just plain hard, stimulating work with a co-operative staff simply doesn't make headline news!

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HAWAII-- Mrs. Peggy Welsh

Mrs. Jean Lee, who gets over the ground more than anyone on our staff, as she takes out the book truck, left early in June with her husband, for a six weeks' trip to the mainland. Also Mrs. Frances Cushingham, who has so ably taken care of our branch at Kealakekua for a number of years, leaves shortly for San Francisco to be present at her daughter's graduation from a nursing school.

After struggling for two months to spend the appropriation granted in the Deficiency Fund for furniture and equipment for our new building, we are of the opinion that nobody in this world is interested in doing business. We have written letters, telephoned, begged and implored various persons and firms for estimates, drawings and samples. All agree that they would like to supply us with the materials requested, whereupon they withdraw into the deep silence. When our constant

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prodding finally produces samples, they fail to include prices, and if prices are given no drawings are forthcoming. Alice-in-Wonderland might be equipped to deal with the merchandising firms of today without raising her blood pressure. We frankly admit we are stymied...When our branch at Kohala, which had not been redecorated inside since it was built twenty years ago, finally emerged fresh and beautiful with a new coat of ivory paint, we were surprised by a rat, who had apparently never been interested in the library before, gnawing a hole right through the canec wall. He was a rat!

In addition to passing our regular appropriation, the legislature (1) granted our request for funds to furnish and equip our new building; (2) passed a bill to provide for the addition of the shelving wing which had been deleted from the original plan. Although the public may not appreciate the importance of the latter item, it means just the difference between life and death to the staff, who would probably not have survived the resulting confusion, additional steps, and mental and physical anguish, for more than a year or so, had the stackroom not been restored...Funds for two branch buildings in Kona, which had been given by mistake in 1947 to the School Department, were re-allocated to the library, which had originally requested the money. One building costing $15,000 will be built in Kealakekua, and another for $10,000 at Holualoa. Thus was corrected what one senator was pleased to term, "a typographical error" of the former legislature.

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THE LOCAL SCENE

LIBRARY OF HAWAII-- Mrs. Violet Silverman

The Library of Hawaii staff has been like a kaleidoscope the last month or two and will continue to change form everytime you look until vacations are over. Gerry Milne took over as head of Reference May 1, and Florence Harshe will take on the order work when she returns from a two months vacation in Lima, Ohio. Hold your hats, we change again: Genevieve Carlton resigned her position at Reference as of July 15, to become Librarian at the Kamehameha School for Girls. Miss Phyllis Taylor of Spokane, a University of Washington Library School graduate, will take Miss Carlton's place. Edith Irwin is taking a year's leave from the cataloguing department to work on the coast. Frances Alexander of Edna Allyn resigned and sailed June 1 on the Aorangi for New Zealand, Australia, and a side jaunt to Tasmania. Miss Alexander expects to cross Australia from Sydney to Perth and north to Cairns if her money holds out. How nice to be able to indulge an itchie foot! Mary Mason resigns her position in the Children's room June 24. She will vacation at home in Portland, Oregon before pursuing further work. Susanne Starr will fly home to Dayton, Ohio this summer for two months. She wanted to sandwich her vacation between the arrival of the new book car and the opening of the Kalihi-Palama branch, but times being what they are, has decided to take off sooner.

Excitement about the new Kalihi-Palama branch has mounted as Myrtle Mattison and others have been spending money for new books. They have struggled against time to get the money spent, but the last census revealed great progress. The building is beautifully modern, and when the furniture arrives it will be the latest thing in libraries. The new book car will be along when the strike is over. It has shelves inside as well as out, which means more books and shelter from rains.

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A station wagon will also be added to the library's staff, filling a long-time need. The Extension division will have a vehicle for visiting branches and stations and need not use private cars of staff members for Library business. The Edna Allyn staff will again tell stories for the City and County Parks and Recreation Commission three times a week at the various playgrounds, during summer. The book car will run out to Aiea School each week in conjunction with the Aiea Community Center summer fun program.

HAVE YOU HEARD our radio program "This is Your Library" being presented over KGMB every Saturday at 1:00? Louise Cocroft, Publicity Librarian, has interviewed the artists of the one-man shows currently displayed in the library patio. The first was Sunao Hironaka, a water-color artist, the next James H. Stewart, oils, and Takeo Gima, whose abstract water colors hung during June. Louise has also interviewed Miss Yurka, famous dramatist and the singer, Todd Duncan on the program. Listen in.

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII LIBRARY Martha Patterson

Haruo Palomino, head of the Periodicals Department, resigned in April to devote full time to keeping house and caring for little Carmela. Mrs. Yee is back again, filling the position on a temporary basis.....Helen Bevens left us in May to become librarian for the Hawaii Employers' Council. She was succeeded as first assistant in the Catalog Department by Dorothy McAlister.....Wedding bells rang April 20 for Shirley Bohlmann and Pfc. Eddie Gray. Our congratulations and best wishes to them! Mrs. Gray left June 8 for a month's vacation with her family in Minneapolis.....Mrs. Bishop and her family plan to leave this month for a Mainland vacation, which will be spent visiting in Canada and Arkansas.

May 17 was a red letter day for Dr. Stroven; it marked the official publication of his book "The Spell of the Pacific."

Among the more interesting of the Circulation Department's recent exhibits were Lloyd Lee's book "In Freedom's Cause", with a display showing some of the steps in its compilation; and a collection of English novels which was loaned and arranged by Mrs. Alfred L. Castle. This exhibit is one of a series displayed from Mrs. Castle's collection.

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HERE AND ABOUT---

Betty Smith, librarian for the Hawaiian Economic Foundation left Honolulu this month. She sailed with her husband for Michigan where he will continue his studies at East Lansing. Betty spent over a year at the Library of Hawaii, then joined the Foundation staff to organize and build its library. Aloha, Betty.....Mildred Saunders, of the Headquarters Library, 14th Naval District announces a change on her staff. Vernese Bennett will swap positions with Caroline Stanley at the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station library. Miss Stanley has previous experience in Army library and State Department service.

Earnest wishes for a complete recovery go to Mrs. Russell Stevens of the Supreme Court Law library. She is recuperating from a lung operation which she underwant recently on the mainland. Good luck, Mary Helen!

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The news is very cheerful from Miss Titcomb and her co-workers on the Union List. The appropriation for paid clerical assistance has proved a great help. There are two typists--one full-time, the other a part-time assistant who is donating her help. Approximately three fourths of the alphabet has been typed and checked, and work is progressing smoothly, with perfect cooperation.

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The eagle eye of one Janet Bell has once again caught the former editor committing a bibliographical crime. It seems that the last issue should have been Volume 6, No.1, instead of No.2. That little extra issue I edited was for the population of the third dimension, Janet. My apologies to all, and thanks to Janet.

Edith Irwin

P.S.
Feels good to wield an editorial pen once again! Your former editors have established a standard of interest which I shall try to maintain during the coming year.

Thanks to all reporters and assistants who helped make "my" first issue a genuine pleasure.

Ye Editor.